

Adapting Books Assistive Technology Continuum

LOW TECH

Physical Access to Text



< **Page Fluffers** – pieces of foam/weather stripping/sponge, giant paper clips, snack bag clips, clothes pins, etc. are attached to pages of a book to create spaces between pages supporting physical access by small hands or students with physical challenges

Physical/Visual Access to Text



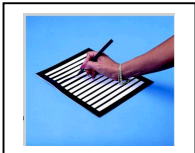
< **Page holders** (TOP) Page Up (MTM - Minstrel Trading & Marketing, Corp., \$6.00 each/minimum purchase of 5, small footprint but holds large papers), and (BOTTOM) acrylic cardholders (Maddak, Inc./Ableware® - purchase at ILS -Independent Living Aids, \$5.95); also look for clear picture holders (office supply) - to hold story pages, schedules, directions, vocabulary words, math tables, etc.; place in page holder on desk for continuous access; student can manipulate cards to create sentences, number problems, etc. if writing is difficult

- **Enlarge text on photocopier** - can place in card holder on desk or use to make an enlarged adapted book

Visual Focus/Enhancement



< **Highlighter tape** (Lee Products - Crystal Springs Books) - removable; same as correction tape but comes in many colors; emphasize words/phrases in text; laminate to make a student reading guide that highlights/focuses in on text; \$1.25/roll



< **Plastic signature guide and writing guide** – (ILA) use to frame text as read; \$3.49 writing guide; \$2.50 signature guide



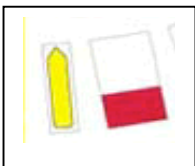
< **Bar Magnifier w/ yellow guiding line** (ILA) - 6" is \$3.95 & 9" is \$4.95

- **Magnifiers** - sheets, bars, hemisphere styles; many bars have a yellow highlighter section down the middle to emphasize words/phrases in text



< **Reading Helper** (A.D.D. Warehouse) - white plastic strip with yellow highlighting down the middle to help students track text as they read, 10 for \$13.95

- **Reading Ruler** (Crystal Springs Books) - reading/writing guide; one side highlights text in yellow while reading; other side serves as a writing guide; 10 for \$12.95



- **Laminate highlighter tape** - to make your own “reading rulers”

- **Make your own frames to enhance visual access to text/images** out of oaktag, cardboard, fun paper plates, etc.

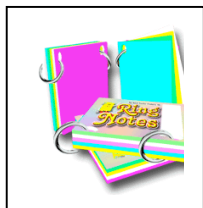


< **Page Flags** (Redi-Tag, office supply) – Removable; use to emphasize words/text, etc.

- **See It Right or other colored transparencies** (See It Right, office supply – used to correct specific visual perceptual problems; place transparency over text to be read; students try different colors to determine the color that best supports their reading

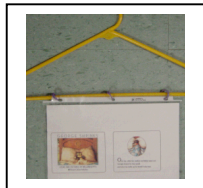
< **Word Whackers** (Crystal Springs Books) – plastic “fly swatter” for framing words; cut out sections to fit the size of text to be viewed; \$.95 each

Boston Public Schools Access Technology Center



< **Word rings** - create your own from index cards, can laminate; or purchase pre-made packages (Top Notch Teacher/school supply)– words, words & definitions, words & pictures, states & facts, etc.

Words in a bottle – put laminated words in a plastic bottle for easy access



Transparent pencil cases – come with holes for a notebook or hanging style (like travel bath cases); hold letter or word cards

< **Chicken rings** (Crystal Springs Books) – small plastic rings used to attach a story page or student work to hangar or other object to present information or student work (Crystal Springs Books)



< **Inquiry Box** (make it yourself) - Access Tech has developed a fun, inexpensive, interactive, multi-purpose teaching/learning tool for the classroom using a cardboard mailing carton. The box has plastic page protectors/pockets on all 6 sides, allowing you to address a wide variety of content areas by inserting pictures, words, numbers, etc., inside the pockets to be used in a variety of creative ways. The Inquiry Box handout provides directions for making the box and strategies for its use.

Interactive/Kinesthetic Access to Story Text Through Symbols/Props



Velcro (AliMed offers discounts to schools) – attach letters, words, sentences, etc. on ruler/yardstick or garden gloves/mittens for interactive lessons

< **Velcro enhanced books** – copy or cut out graphics from books; attach velcro to picture and book for interactive lessons; purchase commercially made Velcro books, e.g., Interactive Stories (Mayer-Johnson, \$19.00)

Props – story characters/objects that can be handled, e.g., fabric props or props printed on card stock, laminated, attached to paint sticks/tongue depressors/popsicle sticks; all can be backed with Velcro or magnetic material for interactive activities



Veltex/Velcro Storytelling Set

Puffy Paint – thick, textured paint that makes drawings/props Tactile (Joanne's Fabrics, PlayTime)

< **Veltex/soft fabric** –(Fabrics & Fasteners, self-adhesive also; fabric stores) - use Veltex or other soft fabric to create bulletin boards, fabric boards/books, gloves/mittens, etc. for interactive word/number play with Velcro backed symbols/props (Discount School Supply for gloves/mittens, when available; Storytelling Book Tote \$4.57; Storytelling Set \$9.97)

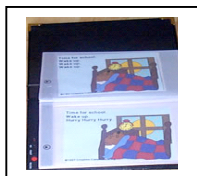
Magnetic picture frames – all sizes; to hold pictures/words

Magnetic sheets/business cards – can be cut as needed to create numbers, letters, words, sentence strips; put on cookie sheet, metal ruler/yardstick (use also as visual/reading supports)

< **Sentence Strips & Objects/Symbols** - on Veltex/soft fabric pouch board; store words/sentences, etc. inside the pouch (LynJan Solutions 17" X 4" - \$15; 17" X 12" - \$30)



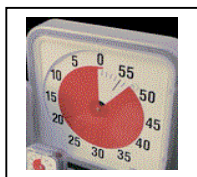
MID TECH



< **Talking Photo Album** – Places pictures/story pages in the plastic sleeves and record up to 24 pages of speech (Augmentative Communication, Inc.; \$29 for photo album, \$45 for album with idea book that is also available; can also be found sometimes at large discount stores)



< **Dictionary/Speller & Talking Dictionary/Speller** (Franklin Electronic Publishers) – promote reading support for student independence; HomeWork Wiz (\$24.95) & Talking Homework Wiz (\$49.95) for primary & early elementary; Merriman Webster Dictionary & Thesaurus (\$59.95) or the Speaking version (\$79.95) for upper elementary to high; Speaking Spelling Ace (\$59.95) with no definitions/synonyms is good for test-taking; all upper level devices offer a BookCard feature to add in encyclopedia, bilingual dictionaries, etc.

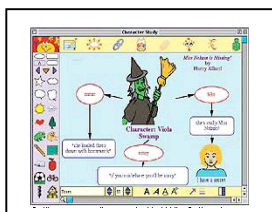


< **Time-Timer** (Generation, Inc.) - elapsed time visual clock that counts down time through a red dial that gradually disappears; 3" (\$25), 8" (\$25) and 12" (\$35) sizes

• **Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic** - Subscription service that provides audiotapes & audio CDs of books; annual membership fee; equipment costs are extra; \$300/yr. for small school - \$800 for large school.

HIGH TECH

Alternative Book Formats or Extension Activities with Software



• **Screenshots** – capturing graphics from the web, etc.

• **Story slide shows** – Kid Pix Deluxe, ClarisWorks/AppleWorks, PowerPoint

< **Inspiration/Kidspiration** (Inspiration Software) - graphic organizer software

• **Picture It & PixWriter** (Slater Software) & **Writing With Symbols** (Mayer-Johnson, includes Mayer-Johnson Picture Communication Symbols; easy to add graphics) - rebus/text programs to add pictures to text, create sentence strips, word rings, etc.

• **Word** (MicroSoft) - insert graphics to create stories

< **BoardMaker** (Mayer-Johnson) - Picture Communication Symbols software; create stories with text/symbols; picture dictionaries, supplement text with symbols, substitute text with symbols, etc.

• **The BookShelf** (SoftTouch/KidTech) - authoring program to create a library of computer-based, accessible talking books for students with intensive needs

< **Alternative Keyboard, e.g., IntelliKeys Keyboard** (IntelliTools, Inc.) - use with software, e.g., **IntelliPics Studio** - multimedia software, **IntelliTalk II** - talking word processor with authoring features to make a variety of lessons/graphics, **OverlayMaker** - create computer overlays & off computer activities

• **Text-to-Speech:** Shareware, e.g., Tex-Edit (Mac) & Read Please (PC); some commercial word processors have text-to-speech features, e.g., IntelliTalk II and Write Out:LOUD (Don Johnston) - read text aloud & highlight words as spoken

• **Text readers** - e.g., Kurzweil 3000 (Kurzweil Educational Systems), eReader (CAST), Read & Write Gold (TextHelp) - read all text files, e.g., from the web, scanned, etc.

< **Electronic books, e.g., Start-to-Finish Books** (Don Johnston, Inc.) – high interest, low reading level kits - paperback, audiobook, & CD (2nd/3rd grade level or 4th/5th grade level)

Electronic text (etext) – text files found online, scanned, etc., to use with text readers

Boston Public Schools Access Technology Center

Resources:

Please note: The following list describes products that, for the most part, are currently in use in Boston Public Schools classrooms. The Boston Public Schools does not make any endorsement, recommendation or warranty as to any specific product listed here.

• A.D.D. Warehouse

Phone: 800-233-9273
www.addwarehouse.com

• AliMed

Phone: 800-225-2610
www.alimed.com

• Augmentative Communication, Inc.

Phone: 831-649-3050
www.augcominc.com

• Crystal Springs Books

Phone: 800-321-0401
www.crystalsprings.com

• ABC Stuff: Resources for Reading

Phone: 800-278-7323
www.abcstuff.com/

• CAST Center for Applied Special Technology

Phone: 781-245-2212
www.CAST.org
CAST eReader

• Discount School Supply

www.discountschoolsupply.com
800-836-9515

• Don Johnston Incorporated

Phone: 847-740-0749
www.donjohnston.com
Range of AT products

• Fabrics & Fasteners (formerly P & A Sales)

Phone: 888-696-1020
Veltex fabric (self-adhesive type also available, Velcro)

• Franklin Electronic Publishers

Phone: 800-525-9673
www.franklin.com
Hand-held dictionary/spellers, etc

• Generaction

Phone: 877-771-8463
www.TimeTimer.com
Time Timer elapsed time clock

• J. L. Hammett, Co.

Phone: 800-955-2200
www.hammett.com
Educational Supply

• Independent Living Aids, Inc.

Phone: 800-537-2118
www.independentliving.com/frame_magnifier.htm
Range of magnifiers & other talking, tactile devices, etc.

• Inspiration Software, Inc.

Phone: 503-297-3004
www.inspiration.com
Inspiration/Kidspiration

• IntelliTools, Inc.

Phone: 707-773-2000
www.intellitools.com
Adaptive tools and software.

• Kurzweil Educational Systems

Phone: 899-894-5374
www.kurzweilededu.com
Kurzweil 3000 & Kurzweil 1000

• LynJan Solutions, Inc.

Phone: 269-424-6520
www.lynjan.com

• Mayer-Johnson, Inc.

Phone: 800-588-4548
www.mayer-johnson.com
Tools & software for language development

• Minstrel Trading & Marketing, Corp. (MTM)

Phone: 305-165-0186
menes@sprynet.com

• Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic

Phone: 609-452-0606
<http://www.rfbd.org/>
Educational library of books on tape/CD for individuals with print disabilities. Annual membership/equipment fees charged.

• See It Right!

Phone: 909-481-2950
<http://www.seeitright.com/>
Colored acetate filters & training to support students with visual perceptual problems.

• Slater Software, Inc.

Phone: 877-306-6968
www.slatersoftware.com

• SoftTouch/kidTECH

Phone: 661-396-8676
www.funsoftware.com

• TextHELP!® Systems Ltd.

Email: info@texthelp.com
www.texthelp.com
Text readers and word prediction software